

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A web-based supply chain system for improving business productivity, said system comprising:

a server configured with a database of business information, said server further configured with a plurality of user interfaces associated with business transactional applications, said server further configured for allowing a user to access and retrieve said business transactional applications;

at least one computer; and

a network coupling said at least one computer to said server.

2. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said business information database includes information relevant to a plurality of supply chain processes, said server further configured to store and download data relevant to at least one of the supply chain processes.

3. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said supply chain processes include at least one of demand planning, planning and scheduling, configuration management, order management, procurement, component manufacturing, assembly and test, logistics, and billing and collection.

4. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server further configured to allow a user to:

set and input inventory requirements; and

monitor a suppliers availability to ship inventory.

5. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server further configured to:

provide data for buying and related activities including at least one of globalization, long-term agreements, and raw material purchasing; and

integrate data from a plurality of purchase databases.

6. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server further configured to track, store, and dispose data relating to non-conformances.

7. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server further configured to:

summarize historical performance data in pre-defined categories;
integrate future demand schedules based on the summarized data; and
predicts potential manufacturing problems based on the summarized data.

8. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server further configured to:

maintain process capability data for pre-determined part characteristics;
and
receive operational metrics requiring monitoring.

9. A method for accessing supply chain system information by users using a supply chain web center system including a server and at least one client sub-system, said method comprising the steps of:

uploading user information to the server;
uploading a plurality of supply chain process information to the server;
uploading a plurality of business transactional applications to the server;

downloading from the server, web pages configured to direct access to databases within the server; and

using a business transactional application to access supply chain process information selected by a user from the databases within the sever.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of downloading from the server web pages further comprises the steps of:

setting inventory requirements; and
monitoring suppliers to determine shipping availability.

11. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of downloading from the server web pages further comprises the steps of:

downloading data for buying and related activities including at least one of globalization, long-term agreements, and raw material purchasing; and

09500737.070601

integrating data from a plurality of purchase databases.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of downloading from the server web pages further comprises the steps of:

summarizing historical performance data in pre-defined categories;
integrating future demand schedules based on historical data; and
predicting potential manufacturing short-falls based on historical data.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of downloading from the server web pages further comprises the steps of:

maintaining process capability data for pre-determined part characteristics; and

receiving operational metrics for monitoring.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said step of uploading a plurality of supply chain process information to the server further comprises the step of uploading a supply process including at least one of a demand planning, planning and scheduling, configuration management, order management, procurement, component manufacturing, assembly and test, logistics, and billing and collection.

15. A web-based system for managing a supply chain system, said web-based system comprising:

a network; and

a server coupled to said network and configured with a database including a plurality of business applications including at least one of demand planning, planning and scheduling, configuration management, order management, procurement, component manufacturing, assembly and test, logistics, and billing and collection, said server further configured to control access and retrieval of said business transactional applications.

16. A web-based system in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said server further configured to provide access to a business transactional application for

setting and inputting inventory requirements, and monitoring a suppliers availability to ship inventory.

17. A web-based system in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said server further configured to provide access to a business transactional application for providing data for buying and related activities including at least one of globalization, long-term agreements, and raw material purchasing, and integrating data from a plurality of purchase databases.

18. A web-based system in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said server further configured to provide access to a business transactional application for tracking, storing, and disposing data relating to non-conformances.

19. A web-based system in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said server further configured to provide access to a business transactional application for summarizing historical performance data in pre-defined categories, integrating future demand schedules based on historical data, and predicting potential manufacturing short-falls based on historical data.

20. A web-based system in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said server further configured to provide access to a business transactional application for maintaining process capability data for pre-determined part characteristics, and receiving operational metrics for monitoring.